

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the Specification to address the Examiner's objections. Support for the amendments to paragraph 84 on page 20 may be found, for example, in paragraph 88 of the same page (i.e. page 20)

Claims 1-11, 18-30, 32-34 and 41-66 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled Claims in related applications. Claims 12, 13, 14 and 16 are amended to convert them into independent claims by incorporating features of canceled Claim 1. Claim 15 is amended to correct typographical errors. Claim 31 is amended to convert it into an independent claim by incorporating features of canceled Claims 18, 24 and 32. Claims 35-37 and 39 are amended to correct their dependencies.

Applicants submit that the amendments are supported by, for example, the originally filed Claims and that no new matter is presented by these amendments.

Objections to the Specification are Obviated

The Examiner has objected to page 2 (paragraph 6), page 20 (paragraph 84) and page 30 (paragraph 129) of the Specification. Applicants have amended these paragraphs to address these objections. Support for the amendments to paragraph 84 on page 20 may be found, for example, in paragraph 88 of the same page (i.e. page 20).

The Office Action also requires status updates of referenced US application in paragraph 0125 of page 29 of the Specification to be updated. Applicants have updated the status of the US Application as required.

Applicants submit that no new matter is presented by these amendments and that the above objections are obviated by the amendments.

Objections to the Claims are Obviated

The Examiner has objected to Claims 9 and 51. Applicants have canceled Claims 9 and 51, thereby obviating the necessity to amend these Claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 49-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have canceled Claims 49-66, thereby obviating the necessity to amend these Claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-11, 18-23 and 43-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Kacian (1994).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action. However, solely to expedite issuance of the other Claims, Applicants hereby cancel Claims 1-11, 18-23 and 43-47 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled Claims in related applications.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 24-30, 33, 34, 41, 42, 48-54, 57, 58, 65 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Kacian (1994) in view of Lockhart et al. (2000).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action. However, solely to expedite issuance of the other Claims, Applicants hereby cancel Claims 24-30, 33, 34, 41,

42, 48-54, 57, 58, 65 and 66 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled Claims in related applications.

Other Objections

The Examiner, in summarizing the Office Action has objected to Claims 12-17, 31, 32 and 35-40 for depending on rejected Claims. Applicants have canceled the rejected Claims without prejudice and have suitably amended Claims 12-17, 31 and 35-40 to remove their respective dependencies on the rejected claims.

Objections to the Drawings

Applicants hereby submit a new set of formal drawings in order to comply with the required specifications.

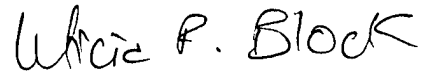
CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 731-5000.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 01-0431.

If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leticia R. Block". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leticia R. Block
Reg. No. 50,167

Dated: November 21, 2003

Customer No. 22886
Legal Department
Affymetrix, Inc.
3380 Central Expressway
Santa Clara, CA 95051
Tel: 408/731-5000
Fax: 408/731-5392